

OMDC: "Culture is our Business." Promoting growth and investment in Ontario's book and magazine publishing, film and television, music and interactive digital media industries

Celebrating Literary Excellence at the 19th Trillium Book Award/Prix Trillium

The 19th Annual Trillium Book Award ceremony brought together Ontario's literary community at the St. Lawrence Hall on April 25. OMDC representatives were very pleased that so many of the finalists were, despite their busy schedules, able to attend this event; 13 of the authors were present. For the sixth year, emcee Pierre Granger, host of TFO's *Panorama*, welcomed the guests and set the night in motion by declaring that he always has a sense of excitement at these awards and noting that the Trillium Awards are the only prize in Canada that allows submissions from all genres.

OMDC acting Chair Peter Steinmetz welcomed the new Minister of Culture, Caroline Di Cocco to her first official publishing event.

Minister Di Cocco began her speech by recognizing the French and English juries. "They are well-respected members of the literary community. They contribute a great deal of time and expertise in determining the finalists and the winners," she said.

The English jury members were Heather Birrell, Lynn Crosbie and Cynthia Good; the French jury included of Mylaine Demers, Aristote Kavungu and Daniel Marchildon. In total, the jury read over 300 titles.

Answering the build up of anticipation in the room, the Minister announced that the Trillium Book Award for Poetry went to Kevin Connolly for *drift*, published by House of Anansi Press.

And the Prix de poésie Trillium went to Éric Charlebois for *Centrifuge*, published by Les Éditions David. Both authors acknowledged their fellow poets and expressed their gratitude to their publishers for their ongoing support.

OMDC's CEO, Michel Frappier, had the pleasure of acknowledging all the five finalists selected to be considered for the Prix Trillium. Minister Di Cocco announced that Jean Mohsen Fahmy's *L'Agonie des dieux*, published by Les Éditions L'Interligne, was the recipient of the 19th Prix Trillium award.

In the words of the jurors, "Jean Mohsen Fahmy takes us back to ancient Egypt in a tale of forbidden love, treachery, and struggles for power and religious dominance. This talented and prolific writer's passion for history is evident as his unfailingly accurate pen takes us beyond historic events and upheavals. *L'Agonie des dieux* will capture the hearts of many readers!"

The awards closed with the announcement of the Trillium Book Award in the English language category. The jury had described this book as a "compelling first-person account of a white Muslim woman whose religious devotion proves the only constant in a life characterized by exile, offers scenes of both harrowing limbo and joyful uplift. The novel subtly engages topical questions of both politics and faith, but ultimately it is the author's sustained psychological acuity and uncanny empathy in detailing Lilly's life lessons that lend this book its vital depth, charm and staying power."

Camilla Gibb then accepted the award for *Sweetness in The Belly*, published by Doubleday Canada.

Pierre Granger closed the ceremony by urging everyone in the audience to go home and read their favourite Trillium Book. Stay tuned for information on next year's 20th anniversary of the Trillium Book Award!

E-mail your news and events by the third Thursday of each month to newsletter@omdc.on.ca

To add or remove yourself from this newsletter list, e-mail Hodan Waberi at hwaberi@omdc.on.ca

T 416-314-6858

F 416-314-6876

www.omdc.on.ca

The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of OMDC

OMDC News and Program Deadlines

OMDC is pleased to provide assistance to the Ontario trade mission to **CTIA Wireless I.T. & Entertainment 2006** (wirelessit.com) taking place in Los Angeles, Sept. 12 to 14, 2006. Eight Ontario-based companies will have the opportunity to exhibit in the Ontario Pavilion and benefit from several value-added activities, including participation at an industry reception and an industry briefing. Companies should be experienced exporters to the US with a technology, platform, device, content or service for the corporate or consumer wireless industry. The participation fee is US\$1,750. Spots are available on a first-come, first-served basis; the deadline to submit a registration form is May 26. For registration forms and a complete list of the many benefits provided to exhibiting companies, please visit ontarioexportsinc.com or contact Mauricio Ospina at 416-325-6151 or send an e-mail to mauricio.ospina@edt.gov.on.ca

OMDC's Market Access Program (MAP) is providing support to seven Ontario-based game developers to attend **E3** in Los Angeles, May 9 to 12. Strategic support will be provided by consultant Marc Saltzman, a freelance journalist, author, lecturer, consultant and radio and TV personality who reports on the high-tech industry. The producers are: George Geczy of Battlegoat Studios Inc., Claudette Critchley of Big Blue Bubble Inc., Tom Frenel of Cappybara Games Inc., Nina Zhou of OmniG Software Inc., Daniel Posner of Pseudo Interactive Inc., Jeff Jam of Spinning Reality Ltd. and Keith Clarkson of Xenophile Media Inc.

OMDC is pleased to be providing sponsorship for sessions at **Magazines University**, a conference for the magazine industry held June 5 to 9 in Toronto through both Magazines Canada and the Canadian Business Press (CBP). Our sponsorship includes the keynote presentation at the CBP Luncheon by international trends and innovation expert Jim Carroll, who will share with the audience a "magazine-focused voyage to 2016 where topsy-turvy business models, even more rapid innovation, and

even more contentious consumers reign." Sure to be a lively presentation, the audience will also learn about the opportunities and challenges facing the magazine industry today.

As part of the Magazines Canada seminars, OMDC is pleased to once again present "Getting on the Radar: Meet the Buyers and Planners." Advertising sales people and the media-buying decision makers have the opportunity to meet together, both in a panel setting, then in small group where the individual magazines receive direct feedback on their own media kits and magazines. For more information on the conference see magsu.com.

June 11-13 | OMDC will be sponsoring the Interactive Exchange at **nextMEDIA: The International Interactive Media Festival** at The Banff Centre, host partner of the event, and the Fairmont Banff Springs, site of the Banff World Television Festival. This will be a producer "speed dating"-like session to bring new media producers and conventional television producers together in a series of meetings to pursue mutual business interests. OMDC will be sponsoring the same session following nextMEDIA at the Banff World Television Festival on Monday June 12, to allow TV producers to meet with their new media colleagues. For more information visit nextmedia2005.com as well as banff2006.com.

June 14-18 | Once again, OMDC will be supporting the **Canadian Film Centre's Worldwide Short Film Festival (WWSFF)** which, with its *Inti-Meets* provides emerging Ontario producers the opportunity to connect with buyers and distributors from around the world and to make sales of their films.

June 27-30 | **OMDC's Market Access Program (MAP)** is providing support to eight Ontario-based documentary producers so they can attend **Sunny Side of the Doc** (sunnysideofthedoc.com) at its new home in La Rochelle, France. Strategic support will once again be provided by consultant Michaelle McLean.

Upcoming Events & Industry Deadlines

May 11 | The Canadian Consulate General of Los Angeles is presenting **Gaming's Future and Cross Platform Design @ E3** in Los Angeles. Breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m. and the program will run from 8:15 to 9:00. There is no cost for this session, but registration is required. For information contact Christy Tanaquin, Business Development Assistant, Canadian Consulate General Los Angeles at 213-346-2753 or e-mail christy.tanaquin@international.gc.ca.

May 12 | Deadline to apply to the **3rd Annual International Partnering Forum (IPF) at VIDFEST** (June 14 to 16) in Vancouver. On June 14, the IPF will facilitate business matchmaking between Canadian and international digital media companies through a full day of networking functions and one-on-one meetings. The IPF is ideal for all executives and business development managers of Digital film/Animation/VFX, Interactive Design, Games/Digital Entertainment, and Mobile Applications/Content, who are seeking joint ventures and partnerships in distribution, co-production, development and publishing. vidfest.com.

May 12-14 | **CONTACT Toronto Photography Festival's film series @ NFB** (150 John St.). Premieres of films about international photographers including Helmut Newton, Martin Parr (spotlight), Pierre Verger, Vic Muniz and Georges Rousse. India is the spotlight country. \$9/\$7, contactphoto.com or allan@contactphoto.com.

May 15 | Nomination deadline for **The Premier's Award for Excellence in the Arts**, which provides \$50,000 to an established artist by nomination. The recipient will receive \$35,000 of the prize and will then pick an emerging artist in the same field to bestow the remaining \$15,000. Guidelines are posted on the Ontario Arts Council site at arts.on.ca/English/Ontario-government-announces-new-award-for-the-arts.html

May 15 | Deadline for the **National Screen Institute (NSI) Totally Television Program**. NSI wants to hear from talented Canadian writer and producer teams who have an idea for a great television series. Through the NSI Totally Television training program, NSI is offering qualifying teams the chance to fine-tune their idea and work toward landing a broadcast development deal. Since the inception of the NSI Totally Television program in 2002, seven out of eight NSI Totally Television graduating teams have landed development deals with broadcasters and two have been produced and broadcast nationally. Guidelines and forms at nsi-canada.ca/totallytelevision/registration.shtml

May 19 | Deadline for entries to the **VIDFEST 2006 Content A-Go-Go Mobile Challenge**. Digital media creators are invited to upload their podcasts, short films and documentaries, animation, music and other digital creations. With every upload, contestants will be entered to win one of five new 60 GB Video iPods, each loaded with all the Content A-Go-Go submissions, plus great content

from CBC Zed, CBC Radio3 and Vidfest. The Content A-Go-Go Mobile Challenge is also an opportunity for creative networking and exposure. Each file received will be automatically added to the iPod Master Playlist, which will be handed out to Vidfest delegates. For info or to upload, visit zed.cbc.ca/gogo. Winners will be announced at the VIDFEST 2006 Closing Gala on June 16.

May 29 | **The Canadian New Media Awards (CNMA)** will be presented on May 29, 2006 at The Carlu. This year's cross-country selection committee consisted of 135 judges representing private, public and non-profit sectors and included several finalists and winners from previous years. Of the 43 finalists, 19 are from Ontario, 12 are from B.C., three are from Quebec, seven from Alberta, one from Saskatchewan and one from Nova Scotia. Visit cnma.ca/index_e/06finalists.html for more information on the 2006 finalists. Tickets for the awards ceremony and gala are available online at cnma.ca.

May 31 | **The Canadian Film Centre's Worldwide Short Film Festival (WWSFF)** Enter your script for a short (max. 40 pages) by mail or in person to: WSFF Screenplay Giveaway, 2489 Bayview Ave., Toronto, ON M2L 1A8 (fax or email submissions will NOT be accepted). For details see worldwideshortfilmfestival.com (click on the Symposium tab) or call 416-445-1446 ext. 406.

June 1 | Entry deadline for the **Ottawa International Animation Festival 2006 (OIAF)**. Preview tapes or DVDs must be received by June 16. An entry form and more information on the conference are available at animation-festival.ca. Inquiries may also be sent to info@animation-festival.ca or call 613-232-8769.

July 5 | **National Screen Institute Canada (NSI)** asks "Are you ready for the international marketplace?" NSI is offering up to 10 television producers a shot at global success as part of the NSI Global Marketing training program. This professional development opportunity focuses on selling, pitching, promoting and networking and concludes with a visit to MIPCOM 2006 in Cannes, France in October. The training program is aimed at mid-level TV producers who want to enter the international marketplace. Participants are not required to pay tuition fees or relocate. Financial assistance is provided as part of the program. For guidelines and application forms visit nsi-canada.ca/global.

July 28 | Entry deadline for the **Cabbagetown Short Film & Video Festival**. No entry fee. Films should be a maximum of 15 minutes long, and submitted on VHS NTSC or DVD formats, along with application form to the festival office. Application forms are online at cabbagetownshortfilmmandvideofestival.com or call Gina Dineen, Festival Coordinator, at 416-924-3514.

August 14 | Deadline to apply for the **Canada New Media Fund**. Guidelines available at www.telefilm.gc.ca.

Congratulations!

Magazine industry guru John Macfarlane, currently editor of *Toronto Life* and Vice-President of Strategic Development at St. Joseph Media, will be honoured with the Foundation Award for Outstanding Achievement at this year's **National Magazine Awards**. Congratulations also to all of the Ontario-based magazines that received nominations for National Magazine Awards, including *The Walrus*, which received a whopping 49 nominations, *Toronto Life*, with 24 nominations, and *Explore*, with 14 nominations. The awards will be handed out at the Carlu

on June 9. For a list of all the nominees, see magazine-awards.com.

Melanie Fogel, the editor of *Storyteller* magazine, has been shortlisted for an **Arthur Ellis Award** for her story "Plenty of Time" in *When Boomers Go Bad* (Rendezvous). The awards are for excellence in crime writing. The prize is named after Canada's last official hangman. Winners of the award will be announced by the Crime Writers of Canada on June 8 in Toronto.

Upcoming Markets and Festivals

May 9-12-	E3, Los Angeles. e3expo.com
May 10-14	Digifest, Toronto. dx.org/digifest
May 11	Playback Mobile Forum, York Event Theatre, Toronto. playbackmag.com/mobileforum
May 17-28	International Film Festival of Cannes. Cannes, France. festival-cannes.fr
May 29	Canadian New Media Awards, Toronto. cnma.ca
May 30-June 4	26 Annual Summer Institute of Film & Television (SIFT), Ottawa. cstc.ca
June 3	Toronto Small Press Group's Book Fair. torontosmallpressbookfair.org
June 7-8	Wireless & Mobile Expo and Conference. National Trade Centre, Toronto. wirelessandmobile.wowgao.com/registration/index.php
June 7-9	Magazines University at the Old Mill Inn & Spa, Toronto. magsu.com
June 8-10	North by Northeast Music & Film Conference and Festival, Toronto. nxne.com
June 9	National Magazine Awards, Toronto. magazine-awards.com
June 9-11	nextMEDIA, Banff, Alta. nextmedia2006.com
June 9-12	Book Expo Canada, Toronto, (Metro Convention Centre). reedexpo.ca/bookexpo
June 11-14	Banff World Television Festival, Banff, Alta. banff2006.com
June 13-18	Canadian Film Centre's Worldwide Short Film Festival, Toronto. worldwideshortfilmfest.com
June 14-16	Vidfest, Vancouver. vidfest.com
June 27	Hollywood and Games Summit. The Beverly Hills Hotel, CA. hollywoodandgames.com
June 27-30	Sunny Side of the Doc. La Rochelle, France. sunnysideofthedoc.com